



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Galveston District

News Release

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Corps of Engineers awards contract for repair work at Addicks and Barker dams

GALVESTON, Texas – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, awarded a contract Feb. 5, 2010, to Omak, Washington-based Cates and Erb Inc. in the amount of \$723,124 for the evaluation and completion of repair work initiated to the water control structures at Addicks and Barker dams in west Houston.

In the first phase of the repair work completed in May 2009, a urethane grout was pumped under the conduits, or tunnels that allow for the passage of flood waters through the dams, to fill detected voids and to ensure the stability of the conduits. This second-phase contract will assess the success of the first contract, fill any additional voids encountered with a concrete grout, repair existing relief wells and install inspection ports in the conduits to monitor the status of the soils under the conduits.

“While there is no danger to the public due to the conduits needing repair, we want to ensure that it remains that way,” said Colonel David C. Weston, Galveston District commander. “This work will provide the structures with additional support, ensuring their stability when flood waters are emptied from the reservoirs.”

Repair work at Addicks and Barker dams will allow the Corps to use fiber optic cameras to look under the conduits and evaluate the success of this repair work, according to Weston. The work is scheduled to begin within the next week and should proceed rapidly, having little impact on the operations of the reservoirs.

“The Corps’ primary objective is to maintain public safety by ensuring the dams we own and operate are safe and the risks to the public are minimized,” said Weston. “The public should use caution while hiking, biking and recreating in and around the work areas at the Addicks and Barker water control structures while this work is taking place.”

Addicks and Barker reservoirs were built in the 1940s to provide flood risk management, delaying the flow of floodwaters down Buffalo Bayou from its upper watershed. Since their completion, the dams have prevented flood damage estimated to be more than \$5.6 billion. Both reservoirs are normally kept dry to preserve their overall capacity to impound storm water and reduce flood levels in Buffalo Bayou. The gates are closed to reduce flooding below the reservoirs. When the downstream runoff has receded to non-damaging stages, reservoir operations are resumed, the gates are opened and water is released.

For more information regarding the Addicks and Barker Dam Safety Program, visit www.addicksandbarker.info or call 1-800-841-7786. Become a fan of the Galveston District on Facebook, www.facebook.com/GalvestonDistrict.